Rural Telephone Connectivity	To give telephone connectivity to remaining 66822 villages.

Bharat Nirman is a 4 year programme which is scheduled to be completed by 2008-09. However, while the Rural Road Programme would need one more year, the programme of Rural Electrification would extend till the end of the Eleventh Plan. Rural Telephone Connectivity is proposed to be completed in 3 years.

Implementation of DPAP in Tamil Nadu

1865. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified drought prone districts in -outhern parts of Tamil Nadu for implementation of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) due to drought situation prevailing there during 2003-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status and break-up of funds released under the DPAP for those drought prone districts in Southern part of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a long term areas development programme, *viz.* Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) on watershed basis in 16 States especially identified by a High Level Technical Committee in 1994 for drought proofing by strengthening natural resource base so as to improve the socio-economic condition of resource poor and disadvantaged sections of the society inhabiting the programme areas. In Tamil Nadu the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is in operation in 17 districts, namely, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Karur, Krishnagiri, Perambalaur, Pudukottai, Ramanthapuram, Salem, Namakkal, Sivaganga, Thiruvanamalai, Thoothkudi, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelvelli, Vellore and Virudhunagar. Under DPAP Programme, Central share of funds amounting to Rs. 52.19 Crores were released to these districts during 2003-05. District-wise and year-wise releases are given in the Statement.

Statement

District-wise releases in respect ofDPAP Districts of Tamil Nadu during 2003-05

(Rs. In lakhs)

District	2003-04	2004-05
Coimbatore	142.6925	156.67
Dharmapuri	673.018	458.915
Dindigul	145.2100	111.94
Karur	42.6425	40.50
Prembalur	148.375	238.96
Pudukotai	125.3900	66.15
Ramanthapuram	140.9600	419.615
Salem	98.3730	182.035
Namakkal	109.4800	107.15
Sivaganga	175.540	182.61
Thiruvannamalai	19.6425	23.25
Thoothkudi	169.5950	275.31
Tiruchirapali	13.5000	36.915
Tirunelveli	33.1025	32.085
Vellore	186.0440	200.57
Virudhunagar	178.0325	284.26
Krishnagiri*		
TOTAL	2401.5975	2816.935

'Krishnagiri district was recently carved out of Dharmapuri district. Funds released under DPAP for the blocks of this district during,2003-2005 are included in Dharmapuri district.